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Review of progress in the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia

Third progress report

I. Introduction

1. On 16 November 2010, the Government of Liberia and the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia (see PBC/4/LBR/2) to accompany the country's peacebuilding efforts. In the statement, it was agreed that periodic reviews of the statement targets would be carried out to monitor progress and amend the statement as needed.

2. The first review of the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments was conducted in 2011, the outcome document of which modified the original statement and created new commitments and targets (PBC/6/LBR/2). The document was adopted by the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 9 May 2012. The second review focused on the main advances and the challenges that emerged during the period from 1 August 2011 to 30 September 2012 (PBC/7/LBR/3). The outcome of the second review was adopted on 20 March 2013.

3. The present report is focused on the status of implementation during the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013 and draws upon the progress reports provided by the Government of Liberia, input from the members of the Liberia configuration, mission reports of the Chair of the Liberia configuration and results of discussions on the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments held in Monrovia in February 2014. It is concluded that the commitments agreed upon in the statement remain valid. Consequently, the statement will be extended for another year, allowing additional time for the fulfilment of their implementation.

4. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Liberia agreed to undertake the fourth review of the statement of mutual commitments by January 2015, possibly aligned with a compact under the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

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II. Commitments by the Government of Liberia

A. Strengthening the rule of law

1. Prioritize the political will to facilitate the work of the Law Reform Commission to better enable it to realize its mandate

5. **Progress is made towards the results/outputs included in the strategy of the Law Reform Commission.** Following the launch of its strategic plan in 2011, the Law Reform Commission embarked on the implementation of key activities. During the reporting period, it provided expert advice to various institutions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, including on the drafting of several pieces of legislation and policies, such as a national oil policy and a new petroleum law. The Commission also serves as the lead drafter of the draft local government act. It reviewed the administrative structures of government ministries and agencies, reviewed and provided a critical analysis of various pieces of legislation, including a draft cooperative development act, reviewed and redrafted the Refugee Act of 1993 (by which the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission was established) and reviewed and redrafted industrial and intellectual property legislation in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Currently, the Commission is drafting a bankruptcy and insolvency law. In 2013, the Commission held consultations in the rural areas of Liberia on law reform issues, including constitutional issues, with a view to providing technical assistance to the Constitution Review Committee, where required.

6. **Budgetary allowance for the Commission is increased.** Since its establishment, the Commission has not benefited from any increment in its recurrent budgetary allotment. Owing to limited funding, it was not possible to recruit sufficient professional staff. The Commission was, however, able to move to a somewhat larger and more independent facility in May 2013. Increased budgetary support is urgently needed to recruit the number of staff required to deliver the Commission's mandate.

7. **A national law reform policy is adopted.** The first draft of a national law reform policy was developed, but has yet to be fine-tuned owing to the limited number of research staff and the fact that the Commission was inundated with requests to review laws from various sectors of the Government.

8. **A national judicial conference is held.** The judiciary and the Ministry of Justice convened a criminal justice conference from 26 to 28 March 2013.

2. Ensure adequate budgetary allocations for the justice sector

9. **Adequate budgetary allocations are made for the justice sector in line with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and World Bank justice and security expenditure review.** For the fiscal year 2012/13, the Government, through the Ministry of Finance, allocated $81.17 million to security and rule of law, representing 12 per cent of the total budget of $672.05 million approved for the fiscal year. Of that amount, $41,198,093 was allocated to the Ministry of Justice (an increase of 47 per cent compared with 2011/12). The Liberian National Police was allocated $18,481,810 and the National Police Training Academy $1,443,194. In 2012/13, the Ministry of Justice spent $33,790,980 (82 per cent of the amount allocated), the national police $16,359,184 (89 per cent of the amount allocated) and

the Training Academy $1,406,328 (97 per cent of the amount allocated). The Government maintained its commitment to the regional justice and security hub by providing $729,000 through the recurrent cost budget to make the Gbarnga regional hub operational.

10. For 2013/14, the Government reduced the allocation to the security and rule of law sectors as a whole, providing $77,364,934 (4.69 per cent less than in the previous fiscal year), partly owing to the fact that it was confronted with an overall revenue shortfall, resulting in across-the-board reductions being applied to most government ministries and agencies. While the Government's contribution did not match the recommendations of the public expenditure review in either of the past two budget allocations, the Government did slightly increase the overall proportion of the national budget allocated to the security and rule of law sectors (from 12 per cent in 2012/13 to 15 per cent in 2013/14). The Government maintained its commitment to the hubs by allocating $500,000 for each of hubs two and three as capital contribution, in addition to $750,000 for the operational fund of the Gbarnga regional hub as part of a separate financial allocation covering the immediate costs of the drawdown of UNMIL.

11. According to the Ministry of Finance, the following amounts were allocated to the main security sector institutions for the fiscal year 2012/13: $10,386,759 for the Armed Forces of Liberia; $18,481,810 for the national police; $1,443,194 for the National Police Training Academy; and $5,244,335 million for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. For 2013/14, the armed forces were allocated $12,532,864, the national police $15,941,748, the Training Academy $1,273,079 and the Bureau $4,858,899.

3. Take immediate steps to reduce the unacceptable levels of pretrial detention cases

12. **Decrease in pretrial detention statistics.** According to available figures, the pretrial detention rate at the national level decreased from 87 per cent in February 2009 to 75 per cent in February 2014. Detainees at the Monrovia Central Prison in Montserrado county constitute approximately half of the country's prison population. The most significant change in the overall figures was recorded between 2010 (86 per cent) and 2011 (79 per cent), with the introduction of the magistrates' sitting court programme. The pretrial detention rate varies by county. For example, in Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Maryland counties, it is, according to data from February 2014, lower than the national average. While the Government continues to address pretrial detention issues with support from the United Nations and other partners, the rate remains too high.

13. **The magistrates' sitting court programme is expanded to all magistrates courts in Montserrado, as well as the three capital cities in Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties.** The magistrates' sitting court programme, currently operating out of eight magistrates courts in Montserrado county, disposed of 568 cases from August to December 2013. When the programme is running, the number of pretrial detainees decreases, an impact worthy of note. Jail delivery, which is a version of the programme in other counties, and the involvement of county attorneys who visit and assess pretrial detention at corrections facilities, had a positive impact on pretrial detention in Buchanan, Kakata, Sanniquellie, Tubmanburg and Voinjama prisons. The lower average admission rate since November 2013 contributed to the constant population experienced to date.

14. Issues regarding insufficient resource allocation and lack of capacity, in particular on prison security and management, need to be further addressed.

15. **Increase the number of justice officials trained.** In 2013, the Office of the Solicitor General conducted four training sessions for prosecutors, county attorneys and their assistants and legal counsel practising in Liberia. Focused on enhancing effective prosecutorial skills, they were held in Gbarpolu, Margibi and Montserrado counties. On average, 60 criminal justice actors were trained during each workshop with funding from the Government of Australia through the Justice and Security Trust Fund.

16. **Increase in the number of cases being addressed by the pilot probation system.** During the reporting period, probation services expanded into Lofa and Nimba counties, allowing 14 probation officers and three administrative staff to be trained and deployed to the region. As part of their outreach activities to criminal justice actors within the region, eight training sessions were held. To date, 28 probationers in Lofa and Nimba counties have benefited. In 2013, 81 inmates were processed through the probation system in four counties, with 31 placed on probation and 25 released through mediation.

17. The probation service operates out of Bong, Lofa, Montserrado and Nimba counties. In Bong county, the service operates out of the Gbarnga regional hub. Overall, the pilot probation system witnessed an incremental increase, with a total of 217 cases processed during the reporting period. The Ministry of Justice plans to recruit and train 40 additional probation officers to be deployed to the remaining 11 counties in 2014.

4. Strengthen human resource management to ensure that justice sector staff with appropriate training and an accurate understanding of the law are deployed in the counties keeping pace with the deployment of the national police

18. **Newly graduated associate magistrates are deployed.** The deployment of the first batch of 60 trained professional magistrates to various circuits was completed.

19. **Increase in recruitment and deployment of State prosecutors and public defenders to hub regions.** The hub concept aims to increase the strength of criminal justice institutions through the recruitment, training and deployment of trained individuals. In April 2013, five assistant county attorneys were trained and deployed to the Gbarnga regional hub (three assigned to the Gbarnga Circuit Court and one each to the Lofa and Nimba circuit courts to support the county attorneys, of which there is one per county). With the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, the total number of county attorneys had, as at July 2013, increased to 20 (from 15 in 2012) and there were 50 city solicitors throughout the country.

20. Of the 21 public defenders deployed to various circuits and the additional 3 deployed to the Gbarnga hub region, all remained in their posts. Each county has a prosecutorial team at the circuit court level. In addition, five public defenders were recruited and are expected to be trained for deployment before February 2014. Three will be assigned to the hub two region (one each for Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee counties) and two to the hub three region (one each for Grand Gedeh and Sinoe counties). This deployment will bring the total number of public defenders to 29 and provide full coverage in each of the 16 circuit courts.

21. **Assignment of judges is reflective of the number of cases on the docket.** The appointment of a resident circuit court judge to Lofa county was confirmed by the Senate in 2013. A new judge was also confirmed and assigned to the circuit court in River Cess county. There is, however, a need for more judges to be assigned to the counties to handle effectively all the cases brought before the courts, especially given that some cases are more complex than others and require more time to adjudicate.

22. **Legal services are operating from the Gbarnga regional hub, and extended to other hubs.** The Gbarnga Ninth Judicial Circuit Court was completed in December 2013 and is scheduled to be opened in early 2014. Legal services are being implemented in two parts; the first was completed in October 2013 and the second will be implemented in 2014.

5. Create space for public dialogue on the rule of law and rule of law issues

23. **Policy on the informal and formal justice sectors is developed by the national conference committee.** Owing to the limited budgetary allocation for the fiscal year 2013/14, the judiciary was unable to convene the planned regular national judicial conference. Prioritization of existing funding by justice and security sector institutions is key.

24. **Recommendations of the 2010 national conference on informal and formal justice are implemented.** The recommendations are yet to be implemented owing to the limited funds available. Implementation is expected in 2014.

25. **Regional consultative dialogues are conducted to take the report of the 2010 national conference back to the people.** Consultations are yet to be conducted owing to the limited funds available. The recommendations from the 2010 conference are expected to be discussed and validated at the next national judicial conference, after which regional consultations would be conducted.

6. Create and implement a case management and tracking system while simultaneously fostering professional relationships among all components of the justice system, including the national police

26. **Record-keeping and case management pilots are established at the Gbarnga regional hub, and extended to the Harper and Zwedru regional hubs in line with their construction and operationalization.** The first version of the pilot automated records case management system was developed and a simulation exercise of the software carried out. End users were trained in basic computer literacy skills and the first testing with end users was carried out in October 2013. Software developers are incorporating amendments made by the end users during the testing phase, with the system set to go live in March 2014.

27. Under a court clerk training programme being implemented by the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute and the Legal and Judicial Systems Support Division of UNMIL, 500 clerks of court were targeted to receive training as part of the roll-out of the manual record-keeping system. Since 2011, 316 clerks have been trained. Currently, coverage of 63 per cent is reported among all the 16 circuits combined, while all the courts in the 15 counties have benefited from the roll-out of the system. Another 182 clerks are to be trained in 2014.

7. **Establish effective oversight mechanisms for the justice system that provide guarantees for judicial independence and public accountability**

28. **Public Service Office is functioning effectively at the Gbarnga regional hub, and established at other hubs in line with their construction and operationalization.** The Public Service Office acts as a referral service centre within the Gbarnga regional hub, providing the public with information on available services. Complaints can be lodged by residents of the hub area against justice and security actors, which are then referred to the appropriate sector for action. The Government, through the operational fund for the hub, hired two additional public outreach officers to work in Lofa and Nimba counties.

29. The Public Service Office facilitated efforts to strengthen public confidence in the justice and security sectors. The data collected by civil society organizations and human rights monitors working with the Office are used for an early warning system. This contributes to a checks-and-balances mechanism to ensure that justice and security sector actors are acting ethically.

30. The outreach and complaint mechanism was identified as a priority service for hubs two and three. The first outreach and awareness campaign in the south-east region was undertaken in August 2013 for 18 days. The recruitment of five outreach officers for hubs two and three is under way, with deployment expected in March 2014, when outreach in the region will continue.

31. **A review of accountability and oversight mechanisms is undertaken by justice and security sector institutions and recommendations are implemented.** Information on this item can be found in paragraph 65.

32. **An independent civilian oversight body for justice officials is established following consultations with the general public on its mandate.** Judges of the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia endorsed the idea of expanding the membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission to include the participation of civil society representatives and other specific experts. Furthermore, the successful functioning of a restructured commission may contribute to changing the prevailing public perception of the judiciary as being corrupt and facilitate a harmonious relationship between the judiciary, service users and the general public.

33. **Review of court fees and fines is completed and necessary amendments are made to provisions and practices.** A judiciary review committee on court fees and fines submitted a final amendment to the Supreme Court. The proposed revised schedule of fees and fines is awaiting validation and adoption. On 12 July 2013, the judiciary opened a revenue collection window in anticipation of the implementation of the revised schedule. The windows facilitated payment of and accounting for judicial service fees and fines in Montserrado county and the other counties in which they are in operation. The momentum is expected to improve as the public, including judicial actors and stakeholders, increases support for this critical requirement of bringing tax collection closer to the revenue base.

34. **Review of bail scheme is completed.** The bail scheme was discussed at the criminal justice conference held in March 2013 and a recommendation arising from the review of the implementation of the current system proposed. Resolutions from the conference were validated on 24 October 2013. The scheme is expected to be implemented once government funding becomes available, hopefully in 2014/15.

35. **Meetings of the legislative committee on judicial affairs are convened regularly.** In 2013, the House and Senate committees on the judiciary met regularly, almost every week, to discuss key judicial issues.

36. **Policy on a Liberian paralegal programme is developed by the Task Force on Non-Lawyers or other appropriate body.** The issue of paralegals was discussed at the criminal justice conference held in March 2013. Resolutions from the conference were validated on 24 October 2013.

B. Supporting security sector reform

1. Maintain the political will to implement the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act

37. **The National Security Council meets regularly.** In 2013, meetings were held regularly.

38. **County security councils are functioning in Bong, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Maryland, Nimba, River Gee and Sinoe counties.** Efforts were made to ensure that county security councils were established in Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Montserrado, Nimba and River Gee counties. Only 3 (Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Nimba) of 15 councils were established and meet monthly as required by the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act, however. This is largely due to a lack of financial support and coordination.

39. **District security council is activated at the Gbarnga regional hub.** Pursuant to the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act, district security councils are to be established. The council for the Gbarnga regional hub is yet to be activated, however, and, to date, councils have been established only in six districts (three each) of two counties (Lofa and Nimba).

40. **Representation and active participation of women is realized at every level of security policymaking.** Gender mainstreaming in the security sector is a high priority within the Government, as was demonstrated during the review of the gender policy of the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the national police. To date, female representation in the national police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization stands at 17 and 30 per cent respectively. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization is training 20 women in leadership skills with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In 2013, an additional 250 officers were trained, with 236 (including 98 women) graduating on 9 November 2013.

41. The Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation has a target of 70 recruits for training per year for the coming three years. The first phase began during the reporting period. Seventeen women were among the recruits. In 2013, the Government, with United Nations support, launched a gender policy for the Bureau that aims to enhance the participation of women and to raise awareness of equality between uniformed and non-uniformed correctional personnel.

42. **Police law is prepared and submitted to the Legislature for enactment.** The draft act is being reviewed by key stakeholders and is expected to be submitted to the Legislature in 2014.

43. **Reform of the Drug Enforcement Agency, in line with the recommendations of the UNMIL/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assessment, is initiated, including necessary amendments to the Drug Enforcement Agency Act.** The Drug Enforcement Agency recruited, trained, vetted and deployed additional personnel throughout the country to strengthen its capacity to combat drugs. It also improved its intelligence-gathering mechanism, undertaking a series of awareness programmes in selected communities geared towards prevention. The Agency has been present at Roberts International Airport in Monrovia since December 2013. A strategic vision and plan were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for approval.

44. **Anti-drug law is prepared.** The law was developed and submitted to the Legislature. In addition, legislation on controlled drugs and substances was drafted, reviewed with stakeholders and submitted to the President for onward transmission to the Legislature.

45. **National strategy on drugs is developed.** Initial work to develop a national strategy on drugs began in 2013, with a draft expected to be discussed with key stakeholders in 2014. Four components are currently being considered: an adequate and efficient legal framework, an effective and efficient drugs demand reduction regime, an effective regime to counter the supply of illicit drugs and effective control and monitoring of licit drugs.

46. **The National Bureau for Investigation and the Ministry of National Security are dissolved.** The National Bureau for Investigation and the Ministry of National Security are being dissolved. The merger between the Bureau and the national police is continuing, with support from UNMIL and the United Nations police component.

47. **Public is engaged in dialogue on security sector reform.** In September 2013, a security sector reform workshop was organized by the Governments of Liberia and Sweden and UNMIL. It was attended by many representatives of various sectors of society and afforded a good opportunity to take stock of security sector reform issues in the light of the UNMIL drawdown and to demonstrate the Government's commitment to justice and security. Challenges remain, including the need to ensure effective public engagement in the security sector reform dialogue, in particular in rural communities beyond Monrovia.

2. Ensure adequate budgetary allocations for the security sector

48. **Adequate budgetary allocations are made for the armed forces, the national police, the National Police Training Academy, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation in line with the UNMIL and World Bank justice and security expenditure review.** The amounts allocated to the main security sector institutions for 2012/13 and 2013/14 are indicated in paragraph 11. Challenges remain, including lack of capacity, insufficient resource allocation and ownership and accountability in the Government with regard to the justice and security sectors.

3. Support the establishment and ongoing maintenance of five regional hubs

49. **Processing of land deeds for the regional hubs is completed.** In 2013, the Land Commission completed the vetting, surveying and processing of the title deeds for hubs two and three. The deeds are before the President for signature.

50. **Work to establish hubs two and three in Harper and Zwedru is commenced.** To measure progress systematically, comprehensive baseline surveys and subsequent follow-up surveys are critical. In April 2013, the Liberia Peacebuilding Office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted a public perception survey on justice and security in the five counties to be covered by the hubs in Harper and Zwedru. The survey aimed to assess people's views on a range of justice and security matters before the actual roll-out or strengthening of specific services. The findings will be taken into account in the design and implementation of priority justice and security services in south-east Liberia.

51. One of the recommendations in the survey was to further enhance confidence in the national police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, taking into account the varying perceptions of men and women, for example through more community patrols, swifter response time and more transparent procedures. The survey also recommended greater efforts by the Public Service Office and civil society organizations to raise awareness of how people can gain access to the justice system, including information on procedures and costs, and of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as the land alternative dispute resolution programme. Given that the survey also showed that people in south-eastern counties continued to have extremely limited knowledge about the hubs, the Programme Management Unit of the Justice and Security Joint Programme conducted a first round of public outreach in the counties in 2013.

52. The project proposals for hubs two and three were completed. The first phase of implementation, focusing on service delivery, began in December 2013. As approved by the Justice and Security Board, and based on lessons learned from the implementation of the Gbarnga regional hub, the proposals include three phases. The first will focus on the provision of priority services within the region. The hubs will ensure prosecution of cases at the circuit court level, provision of free legal representation at the magisterial and circuit court levels, psychosocial and medical referral and legal support and advice to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Other services to be provided include monitoring of compliance by justice and security agencies with human rights standards, referral of citizens to available and existing community services and referral of citizens' complaints to justice and security agencies.

53. **Public support offices are functioning in the hubs with protected means for citizens to file complaints.** The Public Service Office is effectively functioning at the Gbarnga regional hub and is expected to become operational in hubs two and three in 2014.

54. **Adequate number of staff are deployed to the hubs, with 20 per cent female representation achieved.** The national police deployed 52 officers, including 7 women, to the Gbarnga regional hub, while the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization has 45 officers, including 10 women, there.

55. **Command and control plans for the national police, the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization are implemented.** Plans are yet to be prepared or implemented. An assessment of the command and control system for the national police was included in an assessment conducted by the national police and UNMIL.

56. **Monitoring and evaluation is conducted to measure the effectiveness of the hubs.** To systematize activity and output monitoring further, the Liberia Peacebuilding Office, together with the Programme Management Unit, developed a set of monitoring logs for justice and security institutions and units active at the Gbarnga regional hub. In addition, a user satisfaction survey was commissioned by the Unit in August 2013. Several respondents referred to the positive effects on the ground, such as the swift response by the Police Support Unit in containing a number of critical security incidents in 2013 and the significant work performed by the Public Service Office, the Sexual and Gender-based Violence Crimes Unit and public defenders.

57. **Integrated communication networks for the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the national police are established.** For the Gbarnga hub region, institutions were connected to the Internet, making communication within counties and with headquarters more effective. There was improvement in communications and coordination by the national police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation in 2013. Communications equipment was procured from South Africa, and 24 of 30 sites and links were installed, enabling connectivity from Monrovia to Bong and Nimba counties. In May 2013, the VSAT, Internet and local area network were installed and are currently operational. The next phase of installation, however, is awaiting the conclusion of negotiations on cost-sharing between the Government and the telecommunications provider.

58. **Legislative and regulatory framework is amended to support decentralization within the justice and security sectors.** The process of amending the legislative and regulatory framework was initiated in 2013 and is expected to be concluded in 2014.

59. **Lessons learned from the Gbarnga hub experience are taken on board in developing the hubs at Harper and Zwedru.** The proposals for hubs two and three largely took a different approach to that of the Gbarnga regional hub by focusing first and foremost on the provision of justice and security services to citizens. Lessons learned in 2013 from the Gbarnga regional hub project were incorporated in the design of the implementation strategy for hubs two and three. For example, a phased approach will be applied. In the first phase, the focus is on service delivery rather than infrastructure. Priority services that do not require the construction of new infrastructure were approved by the Justice and Security Board on 12 June 2013. They include the deployment of human rights monitors, public outreach officers, assistant county attorneys, public defenders, Sexual and Gender-based Violent Crimes Unit victim support officers and case liaison officers to provide psychosocial, legal and medical referral services to survivors of sexual violence, in addition to legal advisory services through civil society organizations. In the second phase, on the basis of an infrastructure and land assessment, an informed decision will be made by the Board as to which buildings should be prioritized for construction. The third phase, in line with available funding, focuses on back-office support systems to improve the productivity and functionality of institutions with a presence at the hubs.

4. Advance the reform of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in line with its strategic plan while maintaining progress in reforming the national police

60. **Training opportunities (including specialized training) for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the national police are increased.** In 2013, 234 Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization recruits graduated from the National Police Training Academy. The next class to graduate, in 2014, totalling 291 recruits, will increase the strength of the national police to 4,864. The Police Support Unit target of 1,000 officers was reached in November 2013. Its current strength is 1,005, including 119 women.

61. In 2013, the national police recruited, vetted and trained 291 officers, including 47 women, with support from the Justice and Security Trust Fund. After being trained at the National Police Training Academy from January to July 2013, all new recruits undertook six months of practical training at various police depots and stations throughout the country. They are expected to graduate in March 2014 and subsequently be deployed by the national police. Owing to the insufficient funding available, the total number of national police officers trained in 2013 remained below the annual maximum of 600. The strength of the national police stood at 4,573 officers (816 women and 3,757 men) as at December 2013. Other training sessions conducted in 2013 included training for 20 female Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization officers on leadership ability, sponsored by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; training for four Bureau officers by the Ghana Immigration Service, sponsored by the Service; training for 150 Bureau officers (114 men and 26 women) on HIV and AIDS awareness in five counties (Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba); training for six senior Bureau officers on project management at the UNMIL Integrated Mission Training Centre; training for 60 officers (50 men and 10 women) on intelligence and investigations at the Training Academy, with financial support from UNDP; and training of 19 national police senior managers in management and leadership at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, as part of a training programme for more than 60 national police middle and senior managers facilitated by UNMIL and UNDP and sponsored by the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

62. The Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation intends to train 70 officers per year from 2014 to 2016. The recruitment and selection process for the first batch of 70 recruits (17 women) having been completed, training is scheduled to begin in early 2014. The Bureau also plans to establish a corrections response unit from the current pool of trained staff.

63. **Reform and restructuring of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization continues.** The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization plans to devolve major functions, including naturalization, to the county level in order to ensure a decentralized immigration service delivery process. The Bureau is recruiting qualified candidates for the position of county commanders. The 45 officers deployed to the Gbarnga regional hub lack adequate logistical support to perform their duties. The Ministry of Justice plans to operationalize the Foya camp in Lofa county, which was vacated by UNMIL in 2013, with a view to tightening border security with Guinea and Sierra Leone while also using the facility for the training of security personnel (Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and national police staff).

64. **Increase the quality and quantity of the national police, in line with identified UNMIL transition planning gaps.** A total of 148 national police recruits, including 46 women, graduated from the National Police Training Academy in 2013 (see para. 60 for further information).

5. Advance efforts to establish effective civilian oversight mechanisms for national security institutions, in particular empowering the National Security Council, county security councils and relevant oversight bodies in the Legislature

65. **Recommendations of the UNMIL/Department of Peacekeeping Operations security sector oversight study are implemented.** With the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, the judiciary, the national police and the Office of the Solicitor General worked with UNMIL, UNDP and the International Security Sector Advisory Team to review their management and accountability mechanisms in March and April 2013. The findings were shared with all justice and security actors. The recommendations from the study were validated by the judiciary and the Ministry of Justice on 24 October 2013.

66. **Civilian complaints board is established and piloted.** The board is foreseen under the police law, which is currently being finalized (see also para. 69).

67. **Community policing focal points are functioning effectively in Bong, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Maryland, Nimba, River Gee and Sinoe counties.** Community police focal points embarked on a campaign to engage local communities through women's groups and student leaders. They also make themselves available to local leaders to aid in security planning. The community police liaison of the national police is engaging with community leaders by educating them on the importance of their interest in community security.

68. **The national defence strategy is finalized.** The strategy was finalized and approved. It is focused on national defence imperatives and regional peace and security.

69. **Civilian oversight of the national police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the armed forces is strengthened.** A civilian oversight board will be established under the police law to investigate complaints brought by the public against police personnel. The legislation is expected to be finalized in 2014 for submission to the Legislature. Consultations between key stakeholders on the mandate and operationalization of the board are continuing.

6. Continue engagement in initiatives pursued by the Economic Community of West African States

70. **Engagement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other countries in the subregion on the management of the Transnational Crime Unit is continued.** In 2013, a national task force against human trafficking was set up, led by the Ministry of Labour and including all security agencies as members. Through the task force, updates on the status of human trafficking were prepared. A national action plan on human trafficking was drafted and is being reviewed. Through the International Criminal Police Organization, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the national police and by liaising with countries in the subregion, efforts are being made to identify

human trafficking suspects who escaped from Liberia to neighbouring countries. In 2013, the Transnational Crime Unit continued to make operational progress with the support of UNMIL and UNODC. Cooperation with Sierra Leone was strengthened, including through an exchange of visits by Transnational Crime Unit delegations and a joint border assessment. Several investigations and operations were conducted, including in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization, in cases of drug trafficking, human trafficking and illicit cash flows. The Liberian Transnational Crime Unit and UNMIL participated in a meeting of the High-Level Policy Committee of the West Africa Coast Initiative, held in Abidjan in October 2013 and organized by ECOWAS, the United Nations Office for West Africa and UNODC.

71. The Ministry of Justice prosecuted three human trafficking cases during the reporting period.

72. **Full staffing of the Transnational Crime Unit is achieved.** The Transnational Crime Unit is coordinating with its counterparts in the subregion, in particular in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, on matters relating to transnational crime, such as theft of property and human trafficking. The Unit's three-phase human resource development plan calls for 60 personnel. The Unit currently has 28 staff and is in the second phase of the plan.

73. **The Legislature is deliberating on the Fire Arms Control Act.** While draft legislation was prepared, it was agreed that, owing to the complex subject matter, an international expert and a local expert would conduct an in-depth review of the draft in the first half of 2014 before its submission to the Legislature.

74. **The Small Arms Commission and the national police are coordinating on a firearms registration and marketing system.** Given that it is related to the proposed legislation on firearms control, no progress has yet been made on this target.

C. Promoting national reconciliation

1. Maintain the political will to implement the strategic road map on national healing, peacebuilding and reconciliation

75. **The reconciliation road map is finalized, including an inclusive process of public consultation.** The road map was developed through an extensive consultative process, which culminated in a three-day intensive design workshop and three single-day technical reviews of earlier drafts. Extensive review and validation were also conducted by the Joint Steering Committee, the standing committee on peace, religion and national reconciliation, political parties, civil society organizations, university students and citizens at the grass-roots level. The road map was endorsed at the formal launch of the "Liberia Rising 2030" national vision, held in Gbarnga, as one prong of a two-pronged approach to achieving the national vision, the other being the medium-term economic growth and development strategy (the Agenda for Transformation 2012-2017).

76. **The reconciliation road map is officially launched.** The implementation of the road map began on 20 June 2013. In July 2013, the first round of mass media outreach was held in Gbarnga, with 150 participants, including local officials, traditional chiefs and elders and civil society organizations from six counties.

77. **A joint reconciliation programme based on the reconciliation road map, and involving the Government, the United Nations, international partners and civil society, is developed.** A draft joint national reconciliation programme was developed. Based on lessons learned from the Justice and Security Joint Programme, however, it was agreed instead to focus on joint programming, ensuring that all partners involved coordinated their activities in the various thematic areas of the road map. The road map is aligned with the Agenda for Transformation 2012-2017 and the "One programme 2013-2017".

78. **Implementation of the reconciliation road map, in line with the joint reconciliation programme, is initiated.** The implementation of the road map began with the formal launch of a national history project in May 2013. The project seeks to rewrite the history of Liberia to be as balanced and inclusive as possible and reflect all ethnic groups. The various projects approved by the Joint Steering Committee in October 2013 address 7 of the 12 specific areas of the road map.

79. **A coordination structure and a funding mechanism (for example, a trust fund) are established in support of the implementation of the joint reconciliation programme.** While there will be no trust fund as such, a multi-stakeholder steering committee, co-chaired by the Government and the United Nations, oversees the implementation of the various programmes relating to the road map.

2. Increase the holding of inclusive dialogue on national reconciliation, including on the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

80. **Timely submission of government reports in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act is achieved.** With regard to the presidential reports to the Legislature on progress made towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, discussions are continuing on whether the Office of the President should continue to provide such reports directly to the Legislature or whether the Independent National Commission on Human Rights should provide progress reports to the President for subsequent submission to the Legislature. The Liberia Peacebuilding Office reviewed the 216 recommendations made in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. That review could form the basis of a follow-up mechanism for the Government, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and other institutions that are responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

81. **Communications strategy for the reconciliation road map is developed with a view to creating a space for public dialogue on national reconciliation.** A draft reconciliation communications strategy was developed, but needs to be reviewed. Funding has yet to be mobilized for its implementation. The strategy focuses on mobilizing the support and participation of citizens in the implementation of the road map.

82. **Communications strategy for the reconciliation road map is implemented, including quarterly reports to the public on progress made with respect to implementing the road map.** Once finalized, the implementation of the strategy is expected to begin in 2014.

3. Generate the political will necessary for the Independent National Commission for Human Rights to fulfil its mandate

83. **The mandate of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in relation to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is clarified.** The role of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is not yet fully clarified. On the one hand, the legislation on the Independent National Commission on Human Rights is silent with regard to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, its report and recommendations, given that that legislation predates the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. On the other hand, the reconciliation road map assigns to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights the tasks of developing a context-specific methodology for Palava Hut talks and coordinating the operationalization of the process. In the absence of an explicit mandate to implement the Palava Hut talks, however, it was suggested that enabling legislation or a presidential order might be needed to confer legitimacy on the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in that regard.

84. **Internal challenges facing the Commission, particularly low staff capacities and inadequate resources, are addressed.** The Independent National Commission on Human Rights faces several operational challenges and has limited capacity to fulfil its broad mandate. Owing to inadequate levels of government funding and other factors, the Commission has been unable to operate optimally over the past few years. The new Chair of the Commission is aware of those dynamics and is consulting and collaborating with national and international partners to ensure that the Commission can deliver on its core responsibilities. The Peacebuilding Fund is supporting the Commission in strengthening its capacity, in particular to design and implement the Palava Hut programme.

85. **Reparation, memorialization and Palava Hut programmes are implemented, in line with the reconciliation road map.** The Palava Hut programme was formally launched by the President on 19 October 2013 in Zwedru. Following the launch, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights held a Palava Hut forum in Monrovia from 13 to 16 November 2013 to engage with key stakeholders on the scope and nature of the programme. The forum generated critical insights into the various practices of Palava Hut systems by the four principal linguistic groups in Liberia, in particular regarding similarities and differences in their composition, jurisdiction, hearing procedures and corrective measures. The outcome provided the basis for the development of context-specific methodologies and guidelines for the Palava Hut talks. The Vice-President, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Justice addressed the forum.

86. **Capacity to address ongoing human rights violations and build a culture of respect for human rights is strengthened.** Since the Independent National Commission on Human Rights dispatched its first human rights monitors to Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties in 2012, they have made significant efforts to increase public awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities. Monitors are expected to be dispatched in 2014 to the counties covered by hubs two and three. Owing to inadequate funding and limited staff capacity, however, the Commission continues to require further strengthening to fulfil its core mandate to investigate and address human rights complaints.

4. Continue to address the role of youth in peacebuilding, primarily through the national youth service programme for peace and development

87. **National youth service programme for peace and development is implemented, including interventions targeting at-risk youth.** Alongside its reconciliation and peacebuilding objectives, the programme focuses on both public sector service delivery and private sector skills development. In the public sector, the programme focuses on education, health and social welfare, with emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support. For the private sector, the programme seeks to expand the livelihood and economic opportunities of young people by enhancing agricultural skills and organizational development, projects and access to markets. The six core counties for the national youth service programme are Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Maryland and Sinoe, with additional activities for youth centres and agriculture in Bomi, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Montserrado and Nimba counties. The core programme was scaled up to eight counties, with the addition of Cape Mount and Nimba under complementary funds provided by the peacebuilding, education and advocacy programme supported by the Government of the Netherlands. In the first quarter of 2013, the fifth batch of national volunteers was recruited. A total of 185 national volunteers were subsequently selected and deployed to various counties.

5. Continue to address land issues through the Land Commission

88. **Alternative dispute resolution system is piloted in five counties.** Five land coordination centres — Zorzor (Lofa county), Gbarnga (Bong county), Kakata (Margibi county), Ganta (Nimba county) and Harper (Maryland county) — are operational, following the recommendation made in a study on alternative dispute resolution systems in Liberia. The establishment of an additional centre in Montserrado county is under consideration. The centres demonstrate that it is possible to have a national land dispute resolution network system.

89. The Land Commission, with support from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the Peacebuilding Fund, along with other partners involved in land dispute resolution, enabled the centres to identify, coordinate and strengthen local alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for land disputes, as well as to make them more inclusive (including chiefs, women, young people and religious leaders).

90. **Consultation and vetting for the land policy completed.** The consultation and vetting process was completed in 2013.

91. **Legislative reforms to address issues of land tenure are made.** Subsequent to the drafting of the land rights policy by the policy task force in the third quarter of 2012, the Land Commission was extensively involved in the planning and implementation of public consultations on the completed draft policy. The policy has been approved and the necessary legislation is being prepared for submission to the Legislature.

92. **Status of the Land Commission is clarified (current mandate expires in 2014).** The mandate of the Land Commission is now understood to cover the period from March 2010 to March 2015.

6. Advance efforts on decentralization and constitutional reform

93. **Implementation of a national policy on decentralization and local governance is initiated.** Given that the implementation of the decentralization policy requires constitutional amendments, the Constitution Review Committee listed decentralization as a thematic area for discussion under the framework for civic education and public consultation in the context of the constitutional review process.

94. **Constitution Review Committee reviews the 1986 Constitution and makes recommendations for amendment(s) in line with its terms of reference.** The Constitution Review Committee is implementing its mandate by carrying out public information activities on radio stations and holding consultations with citizens and stakeholders in Monrovia and its environs, to be extended to community radio stations in the 15 counties. The public information, civic education and consultation activities will be conducted in the various local languages.

95. In 2013, the Constitution Review Committee met the Supreme Court, the leadership of both houses of the Legislature, women's groups, political parties, civil society organizations, traditional leaders, students, religious leaders and professional associations to inform stakeholders of its mandate and to forge partnerships with them in the review of the Constitution.

III. Commitments by the Peacebuilding Commission

1. Mobilize resources for the peacebuilding priorities identified in the statement of mutual commitments and the Liberia peacebuilding programme, advocating that the pledges and commitments made by different donors be honoured and effectively coordinated; this will be carried out in coordination with and in support to Liberian initiatives

96. In February 2013, the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission conducted a joint visit to Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Liberia, the delegation explored ways to enhance financial support, strengthen coordination and maximize synergies for peacebuilding purposes in collaboration with the United Nations, the international financial institutions, bilateral partners and the Government. The delegation also reviewed progress in the implementation of the Liberia peacebuilding programme, which included areas financed by the Peacebuilding Fund and assessed the status of implementation of the statement of mutual commitments.

97. The Chair's visit to Liberia in May 2013 focused on management of the Justice and Security Trust Fund, strengthening engagement between the United Nations, the World Bank and the African Development Bank through the Peacebuilding Fund, funding for the Palava Hut process and increasing gender-related funding from the Peacebuilding Fund.

98. In September 2013, the Chair took part in the security sector reform workshop in Monrovia organized by the Governments of Liberia and Sweden and UNMIL to take stock of security sector reform issues in the light of the drawdown of UNMIL and to demonstrate the commitment by the Government to justice and security in the country. The Chair also met stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the

reconciliation road map, the Palava Hut process, gender mainstreaming issues and land issues.

2. Broaden the donor base for Liberia and encourage the wide participation of partners in all international forums in which support can be garnered for Liberia; this will be carried out in coordination with Liberian authorities

99. Resource mobilization for peacebuilding purposes was highlighted on a number of occasions, including at the meetings of the Liberia configuration and on other occasions in New York, Monrovia and other capitals. Government plans and programmes for reconciliation, justice and security need to be followed through. Efforts to enhance the effectiveness of existing programmes and funding mechanisms were aimed at marshalling resources for peacebuilding and contributing to the efforts of the Government to ensure adequate and predictable resources for such purposes. The Chair continues discussions with bilateral partners, in cooperation with the Ambassador of Liberia to the United Nations, Marjon V. Kamara, to broaden the network of partners.

100. The Chair frequently met representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank to exchange views on conflict aspects, the coming strategies for engagement of the two banks and specific challenges concerning justice and security. The two banks are working on instruments for engagement with Liberia, including key infrastructure (roads, electricity, water system) in areas covered by the regional justice and security hubs, as well on decentralization, public financial management, employment and young people.

101. An important part of the configuration's engagement and support for Liberia was implemented through bilateral efforts. Some examples are provided below.

102. Australia supports the national youth service programme for peace and development implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund, the Government of Liberia and non-governmental organizations.

103. The European Union is considering providing long-term support to the justice and security sector.

104. Germany implemented a project on regional resource governance in West Africa through the German Agency for International Cooperation on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The project supports Liberia and Sierra Leone in enhancing public management of resource extraction with a view to reducing the potential for conflict in the region.

105. France supported the national police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. The gendarmerie supported training of trainers for Police Support Unit instructors and also funded the construction of an immigration border checkpoint at the border with Guinea in Yekepa, Nimba county.

106. Irish Aid committed itself to supporting the training of 61 senior and middle-level commanders at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration to enhance the leadership and managerial capacities of the national police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Nineteen senior commanders graduated from an eight-week training programme in November 2013. Ireland also supported the training and equipping of the Police Support Unit.

107. Japan provided $1.5 million for a project for promoting youth employment in the mining, construction and agriculture sectors. Projects implemented in Monrovia and Nimba county included training on heavy equipment for unemployed young people, training of trainers and rehabilitation and maintenance of training centres, all aimed at increasing employment opportunities for young people.

108. Norway provides police officers with specialized skills in response to UNMIL requests, in addition to funding for the National Police Training Academy in Monrovia and the Regional Training Centre in Harper. Norway provided infrastructure development, furnishing and equipment support to the national police and the construction of the Regional Training Centre in Harper was completed. At the National Police Training Academy, the renovation of the firing range, garage and carport was finalized and kitchen equipment and garage toolboxes were provided. The construction of a multi-purpose hall there is continuing. Norway also supported the completion of the shared training, accommodation and catering components at the Gbarnga regional hub.

109. Spain provided support through grants to non-governmental organizations such as Fundación Benito Menni to improve the rehabilitation centre for orphans and amputees in Monrovia, to the Spanish Red Cross to reinforce the disaster response capacity of the Liberian Red Cross and to finance a project on psychosocial support for conflicted-affected women in Liberia. Spain also contributed to UNDP programmes for social cohesion and youth employment and electoral cycle support, in addition to the economic and social empowerment of Liberian women through projects of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Union.

110. Spain contributed $50,000 to the African Union to finance a quick-impact project on livelihoods and cooperative development that was implemented by the liaison office in Liberia in 2012 and 2013 to improve livelihoods through economic empowerment in Bong, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Nimba counties. Four cooperatives were established in those counties, with the participation of 25 members in each county, including 15 women.

111. In 2012, Sweden made a non-earmarked contribution of SKr 30 million (some $4 million) to the Justice and Security Trust Fund. Sweden also contributed to gender, civil society, youth and good economic governance projects. Altogether, Sweden allocated more than SKr 80 million (some $12 million) to projects contributing to peacebuilding in Liberia in 2013. Sweden will provide further bilateral aid of SKr 1.65 billion (some $240 million) over the coming five years.

112. Sweden seconded police and corrections officers to UNMIL and contributed to its work through a peacebuilding adviser within the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia. Sweden supported a review of the United Nations police component induction training project with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNMIL. In addition, seconded Swedish officers engaged in several projects in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as part of UNMIL and national efforts to promote gender mainstreaming within the justice and security sector, including through the United Nations International Network of Female Police Peacekeepers. In September 2013, Sweden co-organized with the Government of Liberia and the United Nations a workshop in Monrovia on the security sector reform process to discuss oversight and accountability, roles and responsibilities, resource mobilization and overall priorities for the sector.

113. Sweden and the United States of America supported Liberia in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Following a decision by the Minister of Finance in October 2013, work towards an agreement with donors on a New Deal compact began. The compact would typically include priorities under the five peacebuilding and State-building goals, in addition to improved financing mechanisms and more efficient donor cooperation. Issues relating to security and justice, security sector reform, rule of law and reconciliation would be part of the compact. The process towards the compact would include a discussion on how the substantive content of the statement of mutual commitments could be included or integrated in the compact, and all processes should then be aligned in order to create the best possible impact and minimize the number of parallel processes.

114. Sweden continues its engagement in the corrections sector through seconded corrections officers and takes part in dialogue with UNMIL and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation on possible projects on security assessments for prisons. Furthermore, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, as part of its support to UNMIL with a three-phased training programme for Liberian corrections staff to enhance their capacity on security and non-lethal use of force in corrections facilities, committed itself to undertaking refresher training, including an advanced form of the training. The Service also committed itself to supporting management training for national corrections officers.

115. The United Kingdom seconded an officer to support police mentoring activities in UNMIL and supports the training of 17 senior and mid-level national police and Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization managers at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

116. The United States supports a wide range of activities in the justice and security sector and on land issues. The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State supported the strategic deployment of its officers as senior advisers in the United Nations police component with the mandate to mentor and build the capacity of senior national police leaders. The Bureau continued to provide significant training support and equip the emergency response and police support units.

117. International financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank contributed to enhancing food security and community empowerment, transport infrastructure and natural resource management.

3. Generate sustained attention and take measures to advocate within the international community support to the peacebuilding process by highlighting progress, challenges, risks and opportunities relating to peacebuilding efforts in the country

118. The Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission met four times in 2013 (February, March, May and December). The steering group of the configuration also met in October 2013. The Chair met bilateral partners and Liberian officials in Monrovia, New York and other cities to discuss various aspects of the statement of mutual commitments. A breakfast meeting for the configuration on the occasion of the visit by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Liberia to New York was hosted by the Chair in December 2013.

4. Work with regional actors, in particular ECOWAS, to build upon their interventions in building durable peace in Liberia and in the subregion

119. The Chair met the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, and other senior officials of ECOWAS in Abuja in November 2012 to discuss the regional dimensions of peacebuilding efforts in Liberia and to seek further collaboration between ECOWAS and the Peacebuilding Commission. Some areas of mutual interest are efforts to combat drugs and transnational crime, the role of women and young people in peacebuilding and regional approaches to peacebuilding. The Chair received a briefing on the efforts of ECOWAS to collect small arms in border areas of the States members of the Mano River Union, as well as on its work in early warning systems, conflict prevention and peacekeeping mechanisms and capacities. He also took part in the high-level meeting organized by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Union in June 2013, at which participants focused on strengthening the Union and its elaboration of a subregional security strategy. The Chair exchanged views with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Office for West Africa, Said Djinnit, on support for the subregional efforts.

5. Advise the Government of Liberia and the Liberian people on lessons learned, in particular with respect to land tenure and rights, the harmonization of traditional and statutory legal systems and reconciliation from experiences gained in similar situations, serving as an objective voice and wielding, as merited, political leverage to keep related processes on track

120. The Liberia Peacebuilding Office, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office and UNDP, among others, developed a concept paper on South-South cooperation support to national reconciliation in Liberia, drawing from the experiences of Mozambique, Rwanda and others. With funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, the Peacebuilding Commission will support this collaboration through exchanges between countries with experience in reconciliation processes and with Liberia. The gender focus in peacebuilding was continuously highlighted, with the Chair arguing in favour of a strong role for women in national reconciliation. He also called for increasing attention to be paid by partners to gender issues, including in the Fund, and for stronger measures by the Government to prevent violence against women.

6. Contribute to deliberations on Liberia, in particular in the Security Council, by providing advice on the three peacebuilding priorities in order to ensure a responsible transition on security management from UNMIL to the Government of Liberia

121. The Chair addressed the Security Council on 25 March 2013 to share the outcome of the visit of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission to Liberia in February 2013, including the challenges of accelerating progress on justice and security, especially strengthening the national police. He also referred to the launch of the Gbarnga regional hub, national reconciliation efforts, gender issues and conflict-sensitive management of land and resources. On 10 September 2013, he emphasized to the Council the need to accelerate progress in efforts to promote national reconciliation, security sector reform and the rule of law. In connection with the briefing to the Council, bilateral meetings were held, as was an informal lunch hosted by Australia with members of the Council at the expert level.

7. Contribute, individually and collectively, to supporting Liberia in its peacebuilding efforts by collaborating closely with UNMIL and the United Nations country team and encouraging the effective coordination of the United Nations, international organizations and donors at the country, Headquarters and capital levels

122. Through close consultation with senior officials of UNMIL, the Chair continues to ensure stronger coordination of support among stakeholders at the international and national levels for the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments. Through his visits to Liberia and his addresses to the configuration and the Security Council, he maintains collective support and aligned messages within the international community. He also maintains close contact with the donor community to mobilize support for Liberia and takes part in a number of discussions and forums in the United States and elsewhere to advocate support for peacebuilding in Liberia. He also met civil society organizations at the Quaker United Nations Office in New York and in Liberia to ensure that their concerns and messages were conveyed at his meetings with various stakeholders.

8. Monitor the implementation of the Liberia peacebuilding programme with a view to ensuring that the peacebuilding priorities outlined in the statement of mutual commitments are effectively addressed

123. Findings and recommendations arising from the Chair's visits to Liberia are contained in his reports and were shared with the Liberia configuration. The configuration welcomed the progress made in national reconciliation efforts, including the launch of the Palava Hut process, and at the same time underlined the importance of coordination of mechanisms and drawing lessons from other countries. On the regional justice and security hubs, the Chair welcomed the steps taken towards the implementation of the second and third hub projects in Harper and Zwedru and underlined the need to build on the lessons learned from the Gbarnga hub.

IV. Review

124. It is proposed that a yearly review of the statement of mutual commitments be carried out, ideally aligned with the work of the Liberia Development Alliance and a New Deal compact. The next review may cover the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.